



Working Agenda as of 7/21/17

Annual Conference on Citizenship: Strengthening Civic Life in America

<http://www.ncoc.org/conference/>; #NCoC2017

NCoC's 2017 Annual Conference on Citizenship demonstrates a continued focus on Strengthening Civic Life in America by taking an honest look at the challenges facing our communities today—from a dearth of civic learning, to the raging opiate epidemic, to the persistent opportunity gap confronting our nation's youth in marginalized communities. Reflecting directly on issues currently consuming our news headlines, this conference brings together civic engagement leaders, practitioners, students, community members, and other organizations in a candid dialogue about the dynamic and turbulent reality we all share. Our nation's civic fabric has frayed, but the backbone of our country—its people—has demonstrated a resilience in community that has inspired powerful change. This is the work our field aims to lift up and amplify. Conference participants are deeply committed to the civic health and renewal of our communities and recognize that the path forward must be taken together.

Thursday October 19, 2017

5:00pm – 9:00pm

Chairman's Welcome Reception

5:00 – 6:00pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

6:00 – 6:15pm

- Garrett Graff, Chairman, National Conference on Citizenship

Dinner with Recognitions and Awards Presentations

6:15 – 7:00pm

Exploring Civic Learning as a Pathway to Equity and Opportunity

7:00 – 8:30pm

A salon discussion, led by NCoC and Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE), to explore the question "Can civic learning be a pathway to increased equity and opportunity for students, institutions, and communities?"

Objectives:

- Advance dialogue and exploration about if and how civic learning can increase equity and opportunity for students (K-12 and higher education), institutions, and communities
- Capture observations and learnings about equity implications and outcomes
- Identify tangible ways philanthropy and other leaders can support and invest in civic learning as a mechanism to influence equity and opportunity outcomes

In follow up to this session, PACE and NCoC will release a brief outlining 3-5 recommendations to spark further discussion and inform a working session to be held in early 2018. Attendees will be invited to respond via blogs, op-eds, and other communication forums.



Concluding Remarks & Overview of Friday's Conference 8:30 – 9:00pm

Friday October 20, 2017 8:00am – 4:00pm

Continental Breakfast 7:00 – 7:45am

Welcome/Overview 8:00 – 8:15am

- Garrett Graff, Chairman, National Conference on Citizenship

Keynote Address

Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic 8:15 – 9:00am

- Sam Quinones, a journalist, storyteller, and author (bio at <http://www.samquinones.com/>)

Opiate addiction has devastated hundreds of cities, small towns and suburbs across America. How that happened is the riveting story of *Dreamland*. Named after a sprawling swimming pool in a blue-collar town of Portsmouth, Ohio, *Dreamland* is the story of colliding interests and unwitting victims, and the corrosion of a once-thriving community. Sam Quinones chronicles the story of life in Portsmouth—a reflection of many other American communities—from devastation to the beginning steps toward recovery. And at the end of a multi-year research effort, he has come to believe that the “antidote to heroin is community.” Here, he shares that story.

***Dreamland* Response: Repairing the Civic Fabric of Community** 9:00 – 10:00am

A panel responds to Mr. Quinones' presentation by providing positive examples of actions that are being taken to repair the civic fabric of communities.

Objectives:

- Advance dialogue and exploration about if and how a focus on civic life, civic health, and civic renewal can support communities in recovery from critical challenges including the devastation resulting from the opiate epidemic.
- Identify tangible ways philanthropy and other leaders can support and invest in the study of civic health and resulting action steps designed to repair the civic fabric of communities

Reflective Breakout Session 10:15 – 11:15am

Guided group discussion among conference participants designed to:

- Capture participant input into tangible ways philanthropy, other leaders, individuals, and organizations can support communities in recovery and consider the role of civic learning as part of the solution set, as a pathway to equity and opportunity.

Networking Expo 11:15 – 11:45am



Lunch

11:45am – 12:15pm

Presentation of the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award

12:15 – 12:30pm

- Recipient: Robert Putnam, Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester in England, former Dean of the Kennedy School of Government and author of multiple books including *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* released in 2016.

Robert D. Putnam is the Peter and Isabel Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy, and past president of the American Political Science Association. In 2006, Putnam received the Skytte Prize, the world's highest accolade for a political scientist, and in 2012, he received the National Humanities Medal, the nation's highest honor for contributions to the humanities. Notable publications include *Making Democracy Work* and *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, both among the most cited (and bestselling) social science works in the last half century. His most recent book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, a New York Times bestseller, chronicles the growing gap in opportunity for American youth. Putnam is now working on a major empirical project about 20th century economic, social, and political trends and the implications for American culture.

Keynote Address: Closing the Opportunity Gap

12:30 – 1:15pm

- Speaker: Robert Putnam

The American Dream is evaporating for over 25 million children born in the last generation. According to Professor Putnam, this reality is not only morally unjust, but economically wasteful, and destabilizing to our democracy. This session will invite participants to learn about his research-based initiative designed to respond to this seemingly overwhelming challenge.

Response: Closing the Opportunity Gap

1:30 – 2:30pm

- Moderator: John Bridgeland, Founder and CEO of Civic Enterprises, a social enterprise firm in Washington, D.C. (<http://www.civicerprises.net>), and Chair of the NCoC National Advisory Committee

Closing the Opportunity Gap will not be easy. Panelists will share their thoughts regarding how conference participants might better understand issues contributing to the opportunity gap and intentionally engage in efforts designed to begin the process of bridging the gap.



Objectives:

- Advance dialogue and exploration about if and how civic life and the study of civic health is relevant to understanding issues contributing to the Opportunity Gap and increase understanding of potential effective responses to this challenge
- Identify tangible ways philanthropy and other leaders can support and invest in the study of civic health as a mechanism to stimulate and support initiatives designed to bridge the Opportunity Gap.

Networking Expo

2:30 – 3:00pm

Challenge to Conference Participants

3:00 – 3:45pm

NCoC, with support from its partners across the nation, is challenged to *Strengthen Civic Life in America*. At the core of our joint efforts is the belief that every person has the ability to help their community and country thrive. The 2017 Annual Conference on Citizenship is a unique convening of individuals, many representing influential networks, with the collective power to influence change. How do we ensure that the time together has been well spent and that action is taken in response to our time together?

A panel of foundations and community representatives will explore:

- What will it take to repair the civic fabric of our communities, begin closing the opportunity gap, and focus civic learning to support both?

Closing Comments

3:45 – 4:00pm

**Bridge Alliance Networking Reception
and Presentation of the American Civic Collaboration Awards**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

NCoC is pleased to be in partnership with Bridge Alliance, a diverse coalition of more than 80 respected, established organizations committed to revitalizing democratic practice in America.